March 30, 2010

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of Senate
Maryland General Assembly
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401
Via facsimile: 410-841-3910

Chancellor William E. Kirwan
University System of Maryland
3300 Metzerott Road
Adelphi, MD 20783

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker, House of Delegates
Maryland General Assembly
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401
Via facsimile: 410-841-3880

Dean E. Albert Reece
Acting President
University of Maryland, Baltimore
220 Arch Street
Saratoga Building, 14th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
Via facsimile: 410-706-0235

Dear Mr. President Miller, Speaker Busch, Chancellor Kirwan, and Dean Reece:

We write to express our support for the University of Maryland School of Law’s Environmental Law Clinic. All of us are law school alumni; many of us were students in the clinic. We are proud of Maryland’s environmental law program and clinic. Indeed, for many of us, they are why we chose the law school over other institutions. Working as pro bono student lawyers in the clinic was a transforming and important educational experience. We are better lawyers for it.

As you know, the University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic recently sued Perdue on behalf of two environmental groups. For taking on this important and groundbreaking lawsuit, we are distressed to find that, instead of being praised, the clinic is under fire. We have attached an editorial from the Baltimore Sun, which summarizes our positions on this matter well.

We are deeply opposed to the budget amendment passed by the Senate and under consideration by the House withholding funding from the School of Law until it reports on individual cases and clients in the clinic. The Maryland School of Law – one of the finest institutions in the state, if not the country – deserves your utmost support. We are proud of the School of Law’s reputation for having one of the top environmental programs in the nation. We urge you to protect this reputation and legacy.

Most sincerely,

Shana Jones, ‘03
Sriram Gopal, ‘06
Sandra Young Purohit, ‘05
Emily Berger, ‘01
Katherine T. Wainwright, ‘06
Anne Merwin, ‘06
Khushi Desai, ‘07
Tracy Kulikowski, ‘02
Jennie Rasmussen, ‘08
Jennifer Marshall, ‘00
Laura Mrozek, Coordinator, Maryland Environmental Law Program
Matthew Steinhilber, ‘03
Lori Schectel, ‘99
Margaret Clune Giblin, ‘02
Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, ‘05
Joshua L. Gordon, ‘91
John Cannan, ‘00
Terry Harris ‘01
Quang D. Nguyen,’00
Jon S. Cardin, ‘01
Amy Roth, ‘06
Jean Pope, ‘02
Jonathan Nwagbaraocha, ‘02
Peggy Kalas, ‘91
Sandra Young, ‘05
Kristen White Klick, ‘03
Chris Gozdor, ‘03
Lavanya Carrithers, ‘09
Michelle Vanyo Mitchell, ’01
Tracy Barr, ‘00
Christine Jochim Boote, ’08
Rita Turner, ‘08
Katherine Baer, ‘04
Jomar Maldonado, ‘03
Megan Heuberger Berge, ‘06
Patience Burke, ’09
Apple Chapman, ‘99
Jeanette Lee, ’07
Katy Byrne, ’99
Karla Schaffer, ‘07
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Briena Strippoli, ‘06
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Scott Yager, ‘09
James Goodwin, ‘07
Kelly Pfeifer, ‘04
Sheena Flot ‘08
Diane Enoch Poling, ‘98
Andrea Silvia, ‘06
Amber Widmayer, ‘07

CC:
Governor Martin O’Malley, via facsimile 410-974-5252
Dean Phoebe Haddon, Maryland School of Law, via facsimile 410-706-4045